

Application No. 10/565,228  
Amendment Dated September 25, 2007  
Reply to Office Action of June 25, 2007

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (cancelled)

Claim 2 (currently amended): ~~AThe device in accordance with claim 1, characterized in thatwherein~~ the ventilating duct-(8) extends essentially parallel to a gastight pipe corridor (6), the pipe corridor-(6) enclosing ~~at least at~~ the loading and unloading pipe-(28).

Claim 3 (currently amended): ~~A device in accordance with claim 1, characterized in thatA device for protecting a loading space of a vessel from excess pressure caused by gas leakage, the loading space comprising a hold provided with cargo pressure tanks, wherein the vessel is provided with a ventilating duct that extends along the hold and is separated in a gastight manner from remaining rooms of the vessel, and further wherein the hold-(1) of the ship is divided into hold sections-(2), each hold section-(2) being provided with a valve compartment-(4) separated in a gastight manner from the remaining rooms of the vessel, the valve compartment-(4) enclosing at least one shut-off valve-(30, 33) which is arranged to shut off a pipe connection between thea loading and unloading pipe-(28) and aat least one of the cargo pressure tankstank-(12).~~

Claim 4 (currently amended): ~~AThe device in accordance withof claim 2, characterized in thatwherein~~ the hold-(1) communicates with the ventilating duct-(8) through at least one automatically opening valve-(14, 16).

Claim 5 (currently amended): ~~AThe device in accordance withof claim 3, characterized in thatwherein~~ the valve compartment-(4) communicates with the ventilating duct-(8) through at least one automatically opening valve-(20, 22).

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Claim 6 (currently amended): ~~A device in accordance with claim 2, characterized in that~~  
A device for protecting a loading space of a vessel from excess pressure caused by gas leakage, the loading space comprising a hold provided with cargo pressure tanks, wherein the vessel is provided with a ventilating duct that extends along the hold and is separated in a gastight manner from remaining rooms of the vessel, and further wherein; the ventilating duct extends essentially parallel to a gastight pipe corridor, the pipe corridor enclosing a loading and unloading pipe; and  
the pipe corridor-(6) communicates with the ventilating duct-(8) through at least one automatically opening valve (24, 26).

Claim 7 (cancelled)

Claim 8 (cancelled)

Claim 9 (currently amended): ~~AThe device in accordance with~~of claim 86, characterized in thatwherein the valve compartment-(4) communicates with the ventilating duct-(8) through at least one automatically opening valve (20, 22).